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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Legal Subcommittee
Fifty-fifth session
Vienna, 4-15 April 2016

Annotated provisional agenda

Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of the Chair.
3. Statement by the Chair.
4. General exchange of views.
5. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law.
6. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space.
7. Matters relating to:
   (a) The definition and delimitation of outer space;
   (b) The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union.
8. National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.
9. Capacity-building in space law.
10. Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.
11. General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

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12. General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space.

13. General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management.

14. General exchange of views on the application of international law to small satellite activities.

15. Review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space.

16. Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-sixth session.

Annotations[1]

2. Election of the Chair

In paragraph 31 of its resolution 70/82, entitled "International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space", the General Assembly endorsed the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subcommittees for the period 2016-2017, and reiterated that the Committee and its subcommittees, at their respective sessions in 2016, should elect their officers nominated for that period.

The Committee, at its fifty-seventh session (A/69/20, para. 382), noted the nomination of Hellmut Lagos Koller (Chile) for the office of Chair of the Legal Subcommittee.

5. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law

The Subcommittee will have before it a note by the Secretariat containing information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law (A/AC.105/C.2/108).

6. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space

In paragraph 4 of its resolution 70/82, the General Assembly agreed that the Legal Subcommittee, at its fifty-fifth session, should reconvene its Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space.

The Committee, at its fifty-eighth session (A/70/20, paras. 269 and 270), commended Jean-François Mayence (Belgium) for his dedication in chairing the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space and endorsed the agreement reached by the Western European and other States that Bernhard Schmidt-Tedd (Germany) would serve as Chair of the Working Group.

As agreed by the Working Group at the fifty-fourth session of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/1090, annex I, paras. 13 and 15), the replies received by the Secretariat to the questions in the questionnaire prepared by the outgoing Chair of the Working

[1] The annotations and the indicative schedule of work are not part of the agenda to be adopted by the Subcommittee.

Group will be made available in a conference room paper. An overview of the responses to the questionnaire, including a synthesis of views presented in writing and raised in the discussions during that session, will also be made available in a conference room paper.

The Subcommittee, at its fifty-fourth session, agreed that at its fifty-fifth session it would review the need to extend the mandate of the Working Group beyond that session (A/AC.105/1090, para. 54 and annex I, para. 16).

7. Matters relating to:

(a) The definition and delimitation of outer space

(b) The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union

In paragraph 4 of its resolution 70/82, the General Assembly agreed that the Legal Subcommittee, at its fifty-fifth session, should reconvene its Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space.

At its thirty-ninth session, in 2000, the Subcommittee agreed that the Working Group would consider only matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space (A/AC.105/738, para. 108).

The Subcommittee will have before it a note by the Secretariat containing views of States members and permanent observers of the Committee on the definition and delimitation of outer space (A/AC.105/1112 and Add.1), a note by the Secretariat containing replies from Member States and permanent observers of the Committee to questions on suborbital flights for scientific missions and/or for human transportation (A/AC.105/1039/Add.6) and a note by the Secretariat containing information received from States members of the Committee on national legislation and practice relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space (A/AC.105/865/Add.16 and 17).

8. National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space

The Subcommittee will continue to consider the item on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space (A/70/20, para. 266).

9. Capacity-building in space law

The Subcommittee will continue to consider the item on capacity-building in space law (A/70/20, para. 266).

10. Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its fifty-eighth session, agreed that the item on review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space should be considered as a single issue/item for discussion on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-fifth session (A/70/20, para. 266).

11. General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its fifty-eighth session, agreed that the item on general exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, should be considered as a single issue/item for discussion on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-fifth session (A/70/20, para. 266).

12. General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space

The Legal Subcommittee, at its fifty-fourth session, agreed that the item on general exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space should be retained on the agenda of the Subcommittee at its fifty-fifth session to continue the debate on both its substance and its scope (A/AC.105/1090, para. 203).

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its fifty-eighth session, agreed that the item on general exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space should be considered as a single issue/item for discussion on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-fifth session (A/70/20, para. 266).

The Subcommittee will have before it a conference room paper containing responses to the questionnaire developed by the delegaton of Japan (A/AC.105/1090, para. 191 and A/70/20, para. 254).

13. General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management

The Legal Subcommittee, at its fifty-fourth session, agreed that a new single issue/item for discussion entitled "General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management" should be included on the agenda of the Subcommittee at its fifty-fifth session (A/AC.105/1090, para. 221 and A/70/20, para. 266).

14. General exchange of views on the application of international law to small satellite activities

The Legal Subcommittee, at its fifty-fourth session, agreed that a new single issue/item for discussion entitled "General exchange of views on the application of international law to small satellite activities" should be included on the agenda of the Subcommittee at its fifty-fifth session, and that the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) should be invited to update the Subcommittee at its fifty-fifth session on relevant developments and issues regarding ITU procedures and regulations applicable to small satellites (A/AC.105/1090, para. 222 and A/70/20, para. 266).

15. Review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space

In paragraph 4 of its resolution 70/82, the General Assembly agreed that the Legal Subcommittee, at its fifty-fifth session, should reconvene its Working Group on the Review of International Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space. The Working Group will continue its work, for 2016, in accordance with the workplan established under this item (A/AC.105/1003, para. 179).

The Subcommittee will have before it a note by the Secretariat containing replies received from States members and permanent observers of the Committee on the review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space (A/AC.105/C.2/109).

16. Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its fifty-sixth session

At its fifty-fifth session, the Legal Subcommittee will submit its proposal to the Committee for the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Subcommittee.

Symposium

The Subcommittee, at its fifty-fourth session, agreed that the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law should again be invited to organize a symposium, to be held during its fifty-fifth session (A/AC.105/1090, para. 224). A symposium on the theme "40 years of entry into force of the Registration Convention: today's practical issues" will be held in the afternoon of 4 April 2016.

Fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

In paragraph 14 of resolution 70/82, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction that the Committee, at its fifty-eighth session, had endorsed the plan of work of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 2018 (UNISPACE+50), welcomed the establishment of the steering committee for the preparations for UNISPACE+50, composed of the members of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies (the Group of 15), the Chairs of the working groups of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies and the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat, and encouraged the steering committee to work with other experts, as appropriate.

The Subcommittee will have before it a note by the Secretariat entitled "Fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: theme of the sessions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and its Legal Subcommittee in 2018" (A/AC.105/L.297), which was made available to the Committee at its fifty-eighth session.

Organizational matters

At its fifty-fourth session, the Committee endorsed the recommendations made by the Legal Subcommittee at its fiftieth session (A/AC.105/990, paras. 194 and 196-198) concerning the improvement and optimization of the methods of work of the Subcommittee (A/66/20, para. 298).

Pursuant to a request made by the Committee at its fifty-eighth session (A/70/20, para. 359) and the Subcommittee at its fifty-second session (A/AC.105/1088, para. 278), the Subcommittee will have before it a compendium containing the rules, procedures and practices, including the processing of documentation, of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

Annex

Organization of work

1. The work of the Legal Subcommittee has been scheduled so as to afford the working groups that will be reconvened under items 6, 7 (a) and 15 of the agenda the maximum amount of time available.

2. The number of statements to be made at each meeting under item 4, entitled "General exchange of views", may be limited, as necessary, in order to allow sufficient time for other agenda items to be considered as planned for each meeting. As a general rule, statements should not exceed 10 minutes, as agreed by the Committee at its fifty-fourth session, in 2011 (A/66/20, para. 298 (b)).

3. An indicative schedule of work is provided below. The indicative schedule of work is a general guide to the dates and times when items will be addressed during the session. The consideration of any item may be moved forward, extended or delayed, depending on the requirements of the Subcommittee and any organizational constraints that may arise in the course of the session.

Indicative schedule of work[a]

Date	*Morning*	*Afternoon*
Week of 4-8 April 2016		
Monday, 4 April	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda Item 2. Election of the Chair Item 3. Statement by the Chair Item 4. General exchange of views	Symposium organized by the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law on the theme "40 years of entry into force of the Registration Convention: today's practical issues"
Tuesday, 5 April	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 6. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space[b] Item 13. General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management Technical presentations	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 6. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space[b] Item 13. General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management Technical presentations
Wednesday, 6 April	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 6. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space[b] Item 13. General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management Technical presentations	Item 4. General exchange of views Item 7 (a). The definition and delimitation of outer space[c] Item 7 (b). The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit Item 14. General exchange of views on the application of international law to small satellite activities Technical presentations

Date	*Morning*	*Afternoon*
Thursday, 7 April	Item 4. General exchange of views	Item 4. General exchange of views
	Item 7 (a). The definition and delimitation of outer space[c]	Item 7 (a). The definition and delimitation of outer space[c]
	Item 7 (b). The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit	Item 7 (b). The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit
	Item 14. General exchange of views on the application of international law to small satellite activities	Item 14. General exchange of views on the application of international law to small satellite activities
	Technical presentations	Technical presentations
Friday, 8 April	Item 4. General exchange of views	Item 4. General exchange of views
	Item 5. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law	Item 5. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law
	Item 15. Review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space[d]	Item 16. Proposals to the Committee for new items to be considered by the Subcommittee
	Technical presentations	Technical presentations
Week of 11-15 April 2016		
Monday, 11 April	Item 4. General exchange of views	Item 11. General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
	Item 5. Information on the activities of international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to space law	Item 12. General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space
	Item 15. Review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space[d]	Item 15. Review of international mechanisms for cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space[d]
	Technical presentations	Technical presentations
Tuesday, 12 April	Item 10. Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space	Item 10. Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space
	Item 11. General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	Item 11. General exchange of information and views on legal mechanisms relating to space debris mitigation measures, taking into account the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
	Item 12. General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space	Item 12. General exchange of information on non-legally binding United Nations instruments on outer space
	Technical presentations	Technical presentations
Wednesday, 13 April	Item 8. National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space	Item 8. National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space
	Item 9. Capacity-building in space law	Item 9. Capacity-building in space law
	Item 10. Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space	Item 16. Proposals to the Committee for new items to be considered by the Subcommittee
	Technical presentations	Technical presentations

Date	*Morning*	*Afternoon*
Thursday, 14 April	Item 8. National legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space	Adoption of the report of the Working Group on agenda item 6[b]
	Item 9. Capacity-building in space law	Adoption of the report of the Working Group on agenda item 7 (a)[c]
	Item 16. Proposals to the Committee for new items to be considered by the Subcommittee	Adoption of the report of the Working Group on agenda item 15[d]
	Technical presentations	Technical presentations
Friday, 15 April	Adoption of the report of the Legal Subcommittee	Adoption of the report of the Legal Subcommittee

[a] At its thirty-eighth session, in 1995, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space agreed that the practice of allocating specific agenda items to particular meetings at a session should be ended and that, to assist in their planning, member States would continue to be provided with an indicative schedule of work, which would be without prejudice to the actual timing of consideration of specific agenda items (A/50/20, para. 169 (b)).

[b] The Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space, to be reconvened in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 70/82, will meet during the session to consider item 6. The Legal Subcommittee will resume its consideration of item 6 on Thursday, 14 April, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group.

[c] The Working Group on the Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space, to be reconvened in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 70/82, will meet during the session to consider item 7 (a). The Legal Subcommittee will resume its consideration of item 7 (a) on Thursday, 14 April, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group.

[d] The Working Group on the Review of International Mechanisms for Cooperation in the Peaceful Exploration and Use of Outer Space, to be convened in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 70/82, will meet during the session to consider item 15. The Legal Subcommittee will resume its consideration of item 15 on Thursday, 14 April, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group.